UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/322
24 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

By carrying out air strikes against military and civilian facilities, the armed forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) today committed an act of aggression on the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

This brutal aggression of the NATO forces represents a blatant and flagrant violation of the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations and is in direct contravention of Article 53, paragraph 1, in which it is stated that "no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council".

I have been authorized by my Government to request you to convene, on the basis of Chapter VII of the Charter, an urgent meeting of the Security Council so that it may take an immediate action to condemn and to stop the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I recall that on 1 February and 17 March 1999, Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed letters to the President of the Security Council (S/1999/107 and S/1999/292), requesting the convening of an urgent session of the Council. Drawing attention in those letters to NATO's military threats, the build-up of troops and weapons at Yugoslavia's border with Macedonia and to its aggressive intentions, my country requested that, in accordance with the Charter and with its responsibility for safeguarding international peace and security, the Security Council prevent aggression against the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In reply to the NATO aggression against its territory, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a sovereign and independent State and a founding member of the United Nations, has no alternative but to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter.

I should be very grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.